

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Claims 1-8, 10-13, 19 and 20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-12, 19 and 20 have been amended and claims 9 and 14-18 have been cancelled through this Reply. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seeks timely allowance of all pending claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 10 has been amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,269,440 to Ueda; and rejects claims 3-10, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ueda in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,310,536 to Desclos et al. (Desclos). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 11 recite, *inter alia*, “the normal direction of both said one plane of said first connecting conductor and said one plane of said second connecting conductor are substantially parallel to the direction in which said hinge portion extends.” The applied references fail to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claims 1 and 11.

Ueda discloses a cellular phone (30) including a first body (31) and a second body (32). The first body (31) is connected to one end of the second body (32) through a hinge (33). See Figs. 4 and 5. Fig. 6 discloses a base contact (61) and (71) connected to each other through a single cable (47). See col. 8, lines 50-56. Ueda does not disclose any connecting conductors that are disposed opposite to each plane.

Desclos discloses a phone including coupling portions (20c) and (20d). See Figs. 5b and 5c of Desclos. Portions (20c) and (20d) are disposed near a hinge (23). See Figs. 5b and 5c. Fig. 4a discloses a phone (97) comprising top panel (1), a bottom panel (2) and coupling portions (20a) and (20b). See column 5, lines 56-62. Desclos discloses connecting conductors 20c and 20d in Fig. 5c. However, the planes of the connecting conductors 20c and 20d are disposed adjacent to each other, and they are not disposed opposite to each other at the planes.

The present invention exhibits the effect that the capacitance caused by the first and second connecting conductors is increased by disposing them opposite to each other (face to face). Accordingly, the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claims 1 and 11.

Regarding claim 10, Desclos discloses that 20c and 20d in Fig. 5c are disposed adjacent to each other, which are twisted around the hinge 23 and the both sides (not plane) are opposed. Desclos does not disclose the structure of the present invention such that said one plane of said first connecting conductor and the plane of said second connecting conductor are disposed at least partly opposite to each other. Therefore, in the case of Desclos, the area of the opposite portion is essentially zero and does not vary effectively. Support for claim 10 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 9, line 19 through page 10, line 6.

Please note that the “area” in the present invention does not refer to a region but to a “mathematical area”. In other words, the area in this invention means the number of unit squares equal to the size of the plane measured by multiplying the length and the width. The area of the opposite portion varies depending on the positional relationship (or angle) of the first casing (10a) and the second casing (10b). See Figs 7a and 7b of the specification. The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to state in the remarks whether the Examiner interprets the “area” of the present invention to refer to the “mathematical area” or to the region equal to the size of the plane measured by multiplying the length and width.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claims 1 and 11 are patentably distinct from the applied references. The dependent claims are at least allowable by virtue of their dependence on corresponding allowable independent claims 1 and 11.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims based on the applied references is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

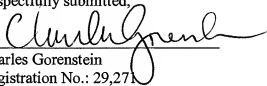
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Obert H. Chu, Reg. No. 52,744 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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